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"A No. 1," KING OF

Met Death on Railroad in Texas-Was in Abbeville Recently.

several months ago with regard to "A No. 1," the Hobo King, who paid visit to this town several months ago and lett his trademark on the old furniture factory.

"A No. 1" was killed recently on a railroad in Texas. The following story of his tragic death is told in the following dispatch from Houston, Texas:

"A No. 1" the King of Hoboes, is dead. Slipping from the rods of a passenger train on the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, the man who boasted that he had traveled more miles and paid less fares than any traveler of his generation, was caught by the trucks of the heavy coach and literal-

ly ground to death.
"Chicago" White, his companion of the last year, brought the news to Houston. "Chicago" and an old priest had stood uncovered by the shallow grave that held the fragments of flesh and bone that could be found.

A No. 1." was a puzzzle, even to the men with whom he had roamed to all parts of the world. He told no one his name, his birthplace or of his family. He was merely "A No. 1," the king of tramps. From Maine to Cali fornia his name is painted or carver on box cars, water tanks, railroad sheds: in fact, everywhere "A No. 1," could find space down went the queer signature. It was his name, in big letters, and two arrows, pointing in the direction the hobo king was traveling at the time he "signed up." He was known to every railroad man in

paying toll to any railroad. His greatest cross was the memory that in an unguarded moment he gave up \$7.50 to pay a journey—an offense which he never repeated.

Like many another tramp, his de-cision to adopt a life vagrancy came from what he regarded as an undeserved punishment in school and once inured to the hardships of a wander-er's existence, he found his greatest joy in riding the rods and beating the blind baggage, with occasional rests in some hoboes' resort until the end which he had predicted for himself, came to him in Texas.

Began When 11 Years Old San Francisco, Cal., was the birthplace of this unique traveler, where his parents were persons of moderate means and some culture. He was born forty-one years ago, and when 11 years old the incident that changed him from a mischievous school boy into the nomad de luxe of all trampdom, occurred. Rather than submit to an unmerited penalty for some viola-tion of the rules of the school, he ran away to New Orleans, La. Central and South America were the next countries the lad visited and then, with a yearning for home and a willingness to take the promised thrashing, he

began to retrace his steps.

Fortune cast his lot while still

making northward with that of a HOBOES KILLED boy and taught him the rudiments of scientific living without toil and of travel without a ticket. "Frenchy" fell into the hands of the law eventually, and as he was being led to prison he called to his young companion: "You'll be a tramp all your life, and I want you to be A No. 1. Just put Readers of The Press and Banner that mark wherever you go and when will remember an article published I get out of jail I'll catch up with you that mark wherever you go and when somewhere." That was the last the boy ever saw of his friend, though he always cherished the hope that some day "Frenchy" would find the "moni-ker" or signal which he faithfully left at every stopping place for thirty

> In all these years he never disclosed his true name to any person nor did he ever hear from his parents and the title conferred upon him by his tutor in trampcraft became the only desig-nation which differentiated him from the rest of the army of hoboes of which he was a shining member. Every part of the country has been visited by "A No. 1," and thousands of water tanks in mountains and on deserts, barns in cities and hamlet are decorated with the sign that he had been there with a mark showing whither his steps would next be

AN INTERESTING SKETCH OF PROF. JAMES WILLIAM THOMSON

Southern School News Contains A Sketch of Educator Well Known in Abbeville (Mrs. H. L. Forbes in Southern School

News.) At Abbeville, South Carolina, on July 28th, 1863, James William Thom-son first saw the light of day. His father, Judge Thomas Thomson, was a strong believer in education and spared neither effort nor expense in the tasks of educating his sons. So, hough times were more than hard was known to every fairboad many country, especially the railroad workmen of the smaller towns, where "A No. 1" would frequently rest a day still in kilts, on the very day he was A Tramp by Nature

"A No. 1" was tramp by nature and king of all wanderers by virtue of a determination, reached early in his carcer, to travel 1,000,000 miles without paying toll to any railroad. Use great the Hon. T. P. Cothran, of Greenville; A. W. Smith. of Spartanburg. live years old. Eight years later, in A. W. Smith, of Spartanburg; Prof. Patterson Wardlaw, of the University of South Carolina, and L. W. Parker, of Greenville. This year under Mr. Webb, coming as it did, at a most im-pressionable period of his youth, was powerful formative influence. Prof. thomson attributes much of his suc-less as a student and as a teacher to dr. Webb and the sound foundation of mind and character laid in his school. In 1877, while still a mere boy, being but thirteen and a half years old, William Thomson entered Erskine college at Due West. From this anstitution he was graduated in 1991 nstitution he was graduated in 1881 in the largest class that up to that time had left the college since the war. In his class were Hon. D. M. Crosson and Hon. H. C. Patton, whose short and brilliant career is well known to Columbians. Though the class of '81 was considered large for hose times, still the student body was small and the personal contact petween teacher and student was in tself an education. The faculty at the ime of Prof. Thomson's attendance was composed of Dr. W. W. Grier, Dr. E. L. Patton and others as well known. These two, however, became fast riends of the young man and remaind so as long as they lived. Prof Thomson accounts his friendship and ntercourse with Dr. Grier as one of he greatest advantages of his life.

Alter graduation, Mr. Thomson, anow eighteen years old turned to the rofession of his father and took up he study of law, under Hon. Armisead Burt, of Abbeville. In 1895 he was dmitted to the bar and began prac-

It was almost an accident which cave Prof. Thomson to the ranks of he educators of this State. Shortly after beginning practice of law he was asked to coach a few pupils for college entrance. From this experience emerges William Thomson, the teacher, and William Thomson, the awyer, is a thing of the past. For the next six years he had charge of a school in Abbeville. This school was virtually the public school of the own, though not supported by taxes and having no regular trustees.

After six years of hard work and valuable experience in Abbeville Prof. l'homson went to Rock Hill as superintendent of the schools there. His work here was of such high order and attracted- such favorable notice that in 1898 he was chosen to fill the chair of pedagogy at Winthrop Normal and Industrial College, at Rock Hill. This position he still occupies to the eminent satisfaction of trustees, presi-

dent and students. Prof. Thomson has had experience in summer school work also, having served under Hon. J. J. McMahan and Hon. W. D. Mayfield in the state summer schools of South Carolina, and having taught several terms in the Piedmont Summer School at Davidson College.

He has been a good worker for the State Teachers' Association, and since joining has attended every meeting

Of his work at Abbeville and Rock Hill nothing need be said as his steady rise speaks for itself. Of his work at Winthrop College I can speak from personal experience as a student under his instruction for two years. I considered him an exceptional teacher. His ability to create and maintain interest, to arouse ambition and to keep his pupils at work is the secret of his good results. His fund of gen-eral information and his capacity for asking questions that showed our lack of it was a constant source of surprise to me. His almost inexhaustible store of anecdotes and incidents which he used as examples and to show application of principles, kept his classes not only interested but eager. He was strong on the practical side of his subject and did not permit mere theories to suffice. To him a grain of good hard sense was worth more than several pages of blindly quoted Mc-Murry. A great worker himself, he exacted a goodly bit of labor from even the worst of would-be shirkers and skimmers. Space will not permit of further details. Suffice it to say that his work in a position of importance and influence in his profession is more

than well done.
Old Pro. Thomson it may be said that he is a man of strong and vigorous personality, of keen mentality, of indomitable energy, of deep and lasting affections and with a strong sense

of humor. Speaking of the influences that shaped his life, Prof. Thomson says he counts none so great as that of the community of Abbeville. As a young man he knew and was in contact with the Hon. Armistead Burt, Judge Samuel McGowan, Judge J. S. Cothran, Hon. W. A. Lee, Judge Eugene B. Gary, Judge J. C. Klugh and Judge W. C. Benet. His companions and schoolmates are now leaders in that community or elsewhere. Among his closest and dearest friends is Prof. Patterson Wardlaw.



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